



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Dr. Alex Zakharia

MIAMI SURGEON INDICTED

Dr. Alex Zakharia, 68, a cardiovascular surgeon licensed in Florida and practicing in the Miami area, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of perjury, mail fraud and wire fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

The indictment charges that between late 2001 and late 2003 Dr. Zakharia held himself out as an expert witness in medical malpractice cases. It alleges that in order to enhance his credibility as an expert witness in cases involving coronary artery bypass grafts, Dr. Zakharia falsely testified that he had performed at least 10-12 such surgeries each year, when in fact he had performed none for the several years before his testimony. The indictment alleges that Dr. Zakharia used the United States mail and interstate communications to defraud a plaintiff who relied on his testimony in *McCatty v. Clancy*, a malpractice case that was pending in Oakland County Circuit Court. It also alleges that Dr. Zakharia gave false testimony concerning his coronary artery bypass graft experience during a deposition in *Rodgers v. United States*, another malpractice case that was pending in the United States District Court in Detroit.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "Those who hold themselves out as 'experts'

offering testimony in legal proceedings must respect the system as well as their profession by telling the truth. Today's charges involve an abuse of that system which must depend on the honesty of such witnesses."

Dr. Zakharia has not yet been arraigned on the charges.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.